

Jonathan Fadner
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(510) 500 - 7695

RE: Ben Liebert

Dear Sir/Madam:

I first met Ben Liebert two years ago while working on my masters degree at NYU Tisch. A collaborator and I were developing a new musical based on Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*, and John, my collaborator, called in Ben to read one of the roles. I was very impressed by the insight he brought to a role that he was reading for the first time and his range as an actor and a singer. He also asked some great questions that made us go in better directions for the show we were developing.

Fast forward two years later: I'm producing some of my work and I'm looking for a director. For me, writing musicals is a very collaborative process, and in a director I'm looking for someone who will ask questions that will help improve the show. I asked Ben to direct and that the same insight he had as an actor showed up even stronger as a director. He came in with a great vision for the two short musicals he was directing. Before we started rehearsals, he had some great questions that involved book, lyrics, and music; some related to storytelling and some logistical. All the things you want to hear as a writer from a director. I also found he had a great energy in the rehearsal room and while very prepared, he was very open to suggestions from the actors and creatives in the room. He was also really good with the actors, respectfully giving them notes and suggestions in a way that was both helpful and critical. One instance that showed his overall knowledge of new musicals happened while we were rehearsing a challenging new song. In a short rehearsal, he fixed how we would come out of a high energy monologue into the song, which was also high energy, cut some measures down to ramp up the intensity of the moment, and to top it off gave the actor some vocal placement notes to figure out some of the high notes she was having a small problem with.

In short, I'm looking forward to working with Ben again, and whole heartedly recommend him to anyone looking for a great director.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Fadner
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jonathan.fadner@gmail.com

Jonathan James Fadner

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Education

University of California, Berkeley Berkeley, California
Bachelor of Arts in Music May 2005
Graduated with honors and distinction in scholarship

New York University New York, New York
Masters of fine arts Graduate Musical Theatre Writing May 2015

Experience

Music Director/ Vocal Director/ Pianist/ Guitarist/ Banjo/ Accordion June 2005 – current

- As a freelance musician, I've played piano, guitar, banjo, accordion, and sung, in ensembles ranging from choirs to musicals to hotels to other lounge situations
- As a director, I have worked in equity theaters, regional theaters, and youth conservatories. In addition, I've directed and taught for youth conservatory classes and summer camps. I've also arranged, composed and orchestrated music for musical theater settings.

Professional Theatre:

- San Francisco Playhouse : Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson Music Director/ (Band Leader) Camelot (piano/guitar)
- Berkeley Playhouse : Pirates of Penzance, Annie, Seussical (Resident music director)
- Top Shelf Theatre : Hedwig and the Angry Inch :
- Novato Theatre Company : A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
- Impact Theater : VS.

Youth Theatre:

- Barrington Stage : Shrek the Musical
- Berkeley Playhouse : Pippin, Annie, Seussical, My Son Pinocchio, Jungle Book,
- Throckmorton Theater (Mill Valley, CA) : Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Into the Woods, Les Miserables, Bye Bye Birdie, Curtains, Spamalot, Free to be You and Me, Really Rosie, School House Rock,
- Saint Cecilia High School (Palo Alto, CA): Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Marin Horizon : Alice in Wonderland
- Yes Theater (Ross Valley, CA): West Side Story
- Irvington Presbyterian Church (Fremont, CA): Radio Joy, Mary's Song

NYU Tisch

January 2013 –2015

Music Director (cabaret class)

- Taught undergraduate performance major's original music to sing in Cabaret Class

Vocal/Acting Coach

September 2007 - current

- Worked with all ages on vocal and acting technique for stage

Throckmorton Youth Performers

September 2008 - September 2013

Music Director/ Teacher

- Music directed many shows with Throckmorton Youth Performers
- Music directed and helped develop Throckmorton's musical theatre summer camp 2008 - 2013

Irvington Presbyterian Church

May 2008 – December 2011

Music Director/ Conductor

- Lead chorus and congregation in singing, by conducting and leading from piano
- Conductor and director of adult choir and children's choir

Marin Horizon's Chorus

September 2009 - September 2010

Conductor/ Choral Director

- Taught choral curriculum to middle school students in a classroom setting
- worked with students on instrumental skills in performance in a choral setting

Albany Adult School Chorus

September 2008 – September 2009

Conductor/ Choral Director

- Selected and lead chorus in Singing, and vocal technique
- In Charge of performance planning and music selection
- Developed curriculum and lesson plan for adult school

Singers Marin, Marin Ca

September 2008 - June 2009

Director

- taught groups of children in choral music
- Lead children in singing concerts

St. Cecilia's Catholic School, San Francisco Ca

September 2008 - June 2009

Piano/Guitar Teacher

- Classical and jazz piano/guitar teacher students at St. Cecilia's school

St. Bartholomew's Music Academy, San Diego

June 2006 - June 2008

Piano/Guitar Teacher

- Classical and jazz piano/guitar teacher to students of all ages and abilities
- Responsible for most clerical aspects of the music academy such as call backs, emails, money, recruiting, spreadsheets, etc.

St. Bartholomew's Church

September 2006 - January 2008

Music Director's assistant

- Understudy of Choir director, directed and accompanied in his absence of both the adult choir and the children's choir

First United Methodist Church, Escondido, CA

June 2006 - August 2006

- Accompanied, selected and lead congregation in music for services

References -

Steven Hess – Program Director Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley
stevenh@throckmortontheatre.org
(646) 241 - 7734

Elizabeth McCoy – Aritistic Director Berkeley Playhouse in Berkeley California
elizabeth@berkeleyplayhouse.org
(510) 501 - 4137

Sarah Schlesinger – Chair of the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at Tisch
smsnyu@aol.com
(212) 777 - 7617

Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3W8HFX1SvI>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziRjROoYjh4>